



City of Cincinnati

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STEADY IMPROVEMENT IN CONDITION OF CITY- MAINTAINED BRIDGES SINCE INFRASTRUCTURE TAX

Cincinnati, OH – The City of Cincinnati, Department of Transportation and Engineering (DOTE), has issued its annual report on the inspection and condition of bridges within the City limits for year 2000/2001. The report states that all of these bridges are safe for their intended loadings. The report also shows the steady improvement in the condition of these bridges since the institution of the Infrastructure tax recommended by the Smale Commission in 1987.

The City of Cincinnati, DOTE/Division of Engineering maintains 127 bridges within the City limits. In 1987, 20 percent of the city-maintained bridges were rated in poor or worse condition and 10 bridges were posted with weight restrictions. Since then, the majority of those bridges rated in poor condition have been either reconstructed or replaced. Currently, only 5 percent of the city-maintained bridges are rated in poor or worse condition, and the number of those posted with weight limits has been reduced to two. The bridges, which are now rated in poor or worse condition, are slated for replacement, reconstruction or removal within the next ten years.

Currently all are safe for their intended loadings.

Of the bridges rated in poor condition, the Department of Transportation and Engineering considers the replacement of the Waldvogel Viaduct to be the City's number one bridge priority. The Waldvogel Viaduct connects the Sixth Street Expressway (at River Road) to Elberon and Warsaw Avenues (at the base of Price Hill). Due to its poor structural condition, the viaduct is posted with a 16-ton weight limit, which is less than half of the legal load limit. Currently, plans for the replacement are being developed and outside funding is being sought from the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) and federal sources.

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